

Chart, 1905 - 1911.

91. 2025-08 25.84

Artist-C




# Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Jennie V.A. Clark

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2012 with funding from  
State of Indiana through the Indiana State Library

<http://archive.org/details/artisxxxxclinc>



## Jennie V. A. Clark, Artist

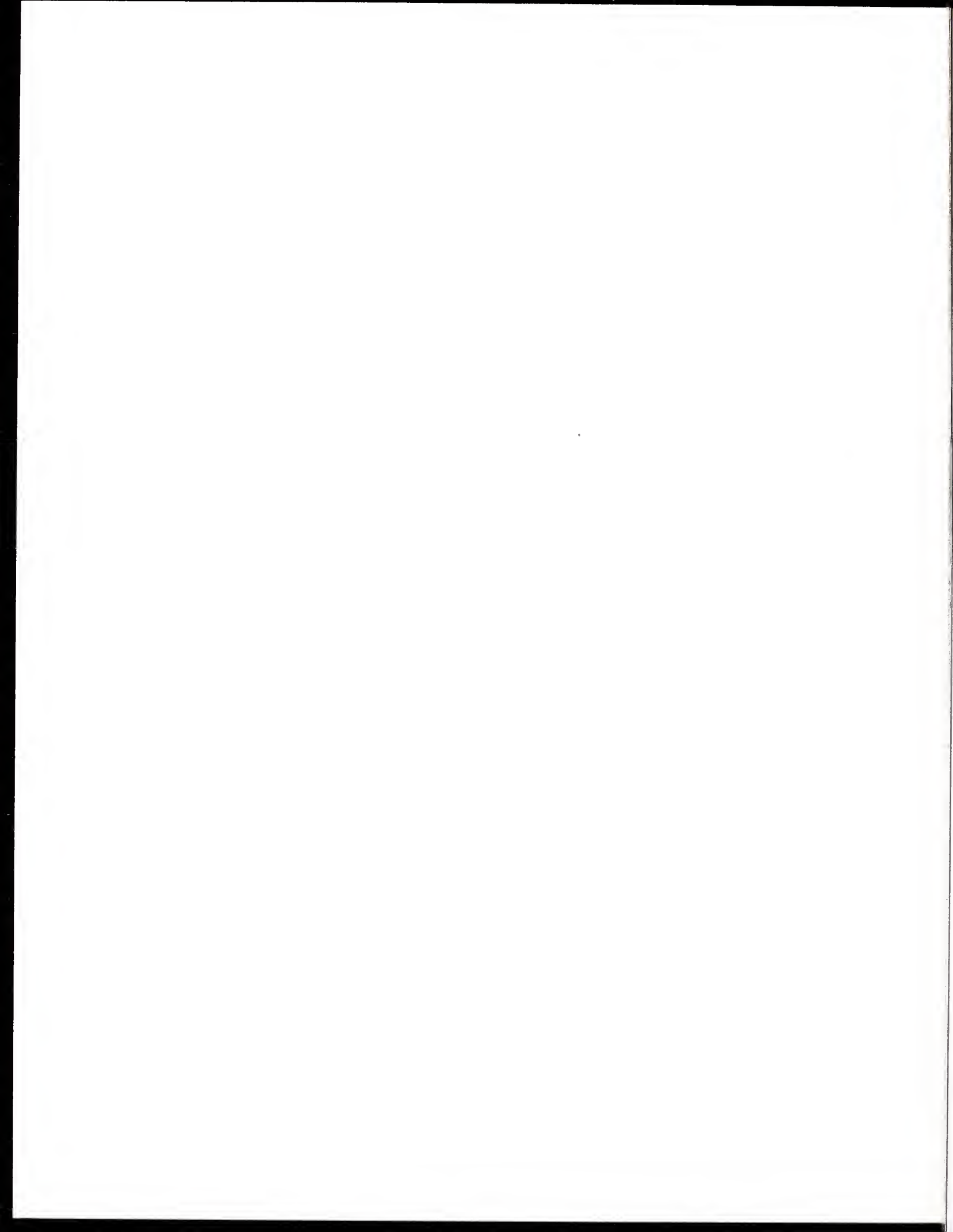
Maker and Seller of  
RARE OIL PAINTINGS

Studio: State Road 33, R. F. D. 3 - Fort Wayne, Ind.

## Working On Lincoln Picture

Jennie V. A. Clark, world famous artist, is now working on one of the most remarkable oil paintings ever designed of Abraham Lincoln, called "Lincoln's Vision", size 9 by 7 feet. Mrs. Clark designed the painting from reading the history of Lincoln. Mrs. Clark is the only artist known to have reproduced so important a point in American history. Thousands of visitors are calling at her private studio and gallery, located 8 miles west of Fort Wayne, Ind., on State road No. 33, to view this greatest of masterpieces while being made. Mrs. Clark maintains a permanent exhibit of beautiful historical oil paintings, which she has made for the benefit of educational purposes. Admission to the gallery is free. Mrs. Clark has always been greatly interested in the history of Abraham Lincoln, on account of the close association at one time of Mrs. Clark's great uncle, James Mitchell Ashley, who was a congressman and a personal friend of Lincoln. Ashley drew up and had charge of the bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, April 11, 1862. He introduced the first proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States, so as to abolish slavery (December 14, 1863), but the measure was at first defeated in the House. On a reconsideration Ashley succeeded in converting twenty-four border and northern Democrats and secured the passage of the measure on January 31, 1865. He considered this the greatest achievement of his life. Ashley and Lincoln both visited the Hermitage and it was there that they vowed they would try to put a stop to slavery. Mrs. Clark is the only person known to have in her possession a hand painted miniature on porcelain in natural colors of Mrs. Lincoln, which she inherited from her great aunt. The miniature was given personally to Mrs. Clark's great aunt by Mrs. Lincoln.

---







volunteers interviewed about their reaction to events since Sept. 11, says he and his former wife chose the Peace Corps after graduating from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne in spring 1972.

"I'd had a student delerment and a high lottery number and hadn't had to do military service," he says. "It was a (President) Kennedy 'ask not' kind of call - it was my alternate service."

Peace Corps volunteer Monica Dougherty, daughter of Terry Dougherty and Trisha Genstic,

"The first thing you learn is real open-mindedness," Monica Dougherty says. "Our way of doing things is not necessarily the right way for everyone."

"One thing is the same in the U.S. and all over the world," Boener says. "In every culture, there's bad and good. ... There's a lot of fear right now and it's very understandable. But I encourage people to get out and meet the (local) international community and talk to them. They want the same things in their lives as we do - for their families, their kids' schools, and not to live in fear."

Terry Dougherty says that after a Peace Corps experience, "you can no longer view people in other parts of the world as somehow separate and different. You find the humanity we all share. Peace Corps volunteers come back with a changed perspective on their relationship with humankind."

Founded in 1961, the Peace Corps has sent more than 164,000 volunteers to 135 countries. Today, more than 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers are in 70 countries, teaching, working to improve

► See Peace/Page 5D

# Artist's past revealed as colorful, unconventional

By Nancy Vendrely  
The Journal Gazette

A ghostly painting of Abraham Lincoln has called forth a clearer picture of the woman who created the image but never completed it.

Artist Jennie V.A. Clark was as much a mystery as her painting when Fort Wayne native Dawn Olly purchased the work five years ago. But a Journal Gazette story Dec. 15 about Olly's quest for information generated a number of responses from readers.

None knew why the large Lincoln painting, started in 1941, remained unfinished at Clark's death in 1965, but that seeming oddity becomes less strange when put into the context of Clark's extraordinary life.

Killed at age 80 in an auto accident on U.S. 33 north of Fort Wayne, along with her son Carl, 61, Clark had been a Greenwich Village artist in New York in her youth. Sometime before settling in Allen County in 1931, she had embarked on a 13-year odyssey across America, painting and selling her works along the way.

Arlene and Harley Kelly of Fort Wayne have direct links to Clark and her paintings.

"My parents (Oscar and Mary Martin) owned Martin Hardware on 33," Arlene Kelly says. "I

remember being in the store as a child and the artists would come in. They always came in a big black Cadillac and they always wore black. Carl wore a black beret."

After the Clarks were killed, Oscar and Mary Martin went to the estate auction and bought four of Jennie Clark's paintings - the nearly 7-foot-by-9-foot unfinished Lincoln, a 10-foot-by-4-foot painting of Miami Chief Little Turtle, and similarly large paintings of Johnny Appleseed and an Indian princess, probably of Little Turtle's family.

"They were so big my father had a room added on to their house to put the paintings in," Arlene Kelly says.

When Arlene and her siblings settled their parents' estate in 1994, those paintings went up for auction. Harley Kelly bought three of them - Lincoln, Little Turtle and the princess - and eventually took them to a second-hand store, Cherished Again, on consignment. Two sold but the princess was donated to the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission.

Notes about Jennie Clark, in Mary Martin's handwriting, indicate that Clark had a special interest in Lincoln and may have painted two or

► See Artist/Page 2D



Jennie V.A. Clark, painter and sculptor, puts finishing touches on a portrait of Mary Todd Lincoln in this 1946 photo.

JOURNAL GAZETTE DEC. 27, 2001  
FORT WAYNE IN





**FIRST CALL FOR HELP:** Referrals for food, shelter, clothing, baby formula/diapers, medical, counseling services, financial assistance with rent/mortgage/utilities, other needs. Spanish speaking information specialist available: 744-0700 or (877) 502-0700.

**FIRST STEPS OF ALLEN COUNTY:** Answers to questions about infant/toddler development, birth to age 3; 458-2701.

**HOME VISITORS:** Volunteers help

with services available on sliding fee scale; hours by appointment, 422-8556.

**THE VILLAGES:** Adoption training and assistance; 423-6676 or (800) 831-4154.

**YWCA:** Domestic violence services — provide information, one-on-one consultation, transportation, support groups and educational presentations; 424-4908, ext. 260 or (800) 441-4073.

ing: 447-7233 or (800) 441-4073.

**Ongoing Help** lists non-profit agencies that provide support services that are available at any time. Send items to Ongoing help, The Journal Gazette, P.O. Box 88, Fort Wayne, IN 46801-0088; fax: 461-8648; or e-mail at [cchapman@jg.net](mailto:cchapman@jg.net).

# Artist

► From Page 1D

three other Lincoln paintings.

Other notes say Clark was a well-known painter in Hillsboro, Ill., that she did commissioned works and that her paintings hang in homes all over the United States. Kelly does not know where her mother got this information, but a 1946 newspaper article about Clark supports and enhances the material.

Born near Tallahassee, Fla., in 1885, Jennie was taken to New York as a baby, when her father started a law practice near New York City. She became interested in art at an early age and received private instruction from teachers and artists in Greenwich Village. Later, she became an instructor herself at her own studio in Washington Square.

Clark told her interviewer in 1946 that she packed up her belongings, bought a "house-car" and took her older sister along as she set out to "do a little painting."

They traveled around the country as Jennie painted, stopping now and then to open a studio in one town or another. At some point she married Thomas A. Clark, said to be the great-grandson of George Rogers Clark, and their son, Carl, was born in 1904.

Jennie likely was considered quite unconventional for her time, and being only 19 when her son was born, quite young to have earned her living as a somewhat itinerant artist.

According to his obituary, her husband was born in Murphysboro, Ill., and worked in a smelting plant in Hillsboro before the family came to settle in Allen County. Like many people during the Depression years, they may have moved for better opportunities.

The Clarks bought 15 acres of land along U.S. 33, between Fort Wayne and Chubbusco, and started a chicken farm, selling eggs and poultry. In her post-war interview, Clark said she "would probably be up in the Ozarks sketching right now if the country wasn't so hard hit for good poultry."

At that time, the three Clarks all were producing art. Thomas Clark was doing taxidermy, son Carl was painting portraits (Indiana Gov. Ralph Gates was his current subject) and Jennie was painting, sculpting and making furniture, a self-taught craft she learned while living in New York. A 15th century French-style lounge, carved and upholstered by Jennie, can be seen in the photo accompanying the newspaper article. Jennie, in the foreground, puts a finishing touch on a portrait of Mary Todd Lincoln.

Gloria Branning, who was a census worker in 1960, saw that painting on Clark's living room wall and

says Jennie told her she was a distant relative of Mary Todd's.

Another Lincoln link, as Clark told her 1946 interviewer, was that she was a descendant of James Mitchell Ashley, an Ohio member of the House during Lincoln's administration. Ashley served in Congress from 1859 to 1869 and is credited with steering through the House the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery.

Clark also had an affinity for the Native American era in Allen and Whitley counties.

Among her paintings of that time was an 8-foot-tall scene of Blue Lake, showing a deer family in the water and an Indian encampment nearby. Marge Meyer has the painting now. It hangs above a stairway in her home.

Meyer, who collects deer figures, bought the painting at a lake cottage auction two years ago and "hauled it home in a pickup truck."

After Jennie Clark's husband died in 1956, she began to sell some of their land. Gary Ford says his parents bought two acres and built the home where he grew up and still lives. But, Ford says, the Clarks' house is no longer there.

More an art studio than a farm home, it sheltered an apparently unique family, raising chickens and making art in the quiet Allen County countryside.

Jennie simply may have been too busy to finish the Lincoln.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

**Elly Crystal, John Goodrich**  
**MONSTERS, INC.**  
Disney • PIXAR  
WETA 52.3/57.7 HD  
Distributed by BUNRA VIA PICTURES DISTRIBUTION COMPANY/PIAA

## NOW PLAYING

**GOVERNMENT 13**  
REGAL CINEMAS  
Village at Gateway 426-1174

**GOVERNMENT CROSSING 8**  
REGAL CINEMAS  
Golden 6 Midway 426-9001

**JEFFERSON POINT 18**  
REGAL CINEMAS  
4200 Winton Blvd 422-1172

CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORY OR CALL THEATRE FOR SHOWTIMES  
WHEN IN FLORIDA VISIT Walt Disney World

## SNICKERS

**THE COMEDY BAR**  
SEE THE BRIGHTEST COMEDIANS IN THE COUNTRY LIVE EVERY THURS. THRU SAT.

**ROBERT YORK**  
**RANDY MATSON**  
**PLUS**

THIS WEEK IN THEATRE 7:30 P.M.  
FRI. & SAT. SHOWTIMES 7:30 & 9:45 P.M.

Tickets \$30.00 per Person  
Reservations Call  
**486-0216 - RST**

## 2002 NEW YEARS COMEDY BASH

**Featuring: Spanky**

- Dinner-Breakfast Buffet
- Live Music by Soul to Soul
- Comedy Show
- Party Favors
- Champagne Toast

**ALL SEATS RESERVED**  
**Call Today!! 486-6323**

<b>THE MAJESTIC (PG)</b> (Special engagement)	11:15, 2:45, 6:30, 7:30, 10:05, 10:45
<b>JIMMY NEUTRON (G)</b> (Special engagement)	11:35, 12:35, 1:55, 2:55, 4:15, 5:15, 6:30, 8:35
<b>JOE SOMEBODY (PG)</b> (Special engagement)	11:40, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40
<b>HOW HIGH (R)</b> (Special engagement)	11:40, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40
<b>EVANILLA SKY (R)</b> (Special engagement)	1:05, 3:55, 6:50, 9:35, 10:40
<b>NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE (R)</b>	11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 6:45, 9:05
<b>OCEAN'S ELEVEN (PG-13)</b>	1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 7:55, 9:30, 10:30
<b>HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE (PG)</b>	12:15, 1:00, 3:45, 4:30, 7:05, 10:25

**Stadium Seating • Digital Sound**

## SONIC DRIVE-INS

**YEAR CLEARANCE**

**FRIGID Super Cup**  
 • 15 cups • 4 s

**Now \$2.99**

**coldwater 482**



## birthday

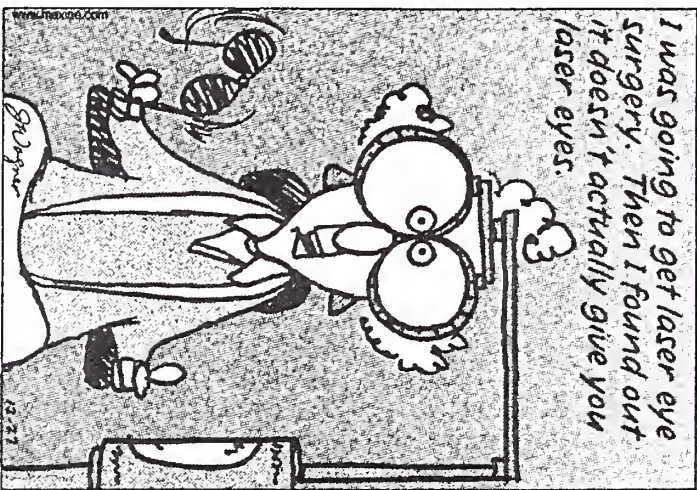
Among celebrity birthdays today: Actor **John Amos** ("Good Times," "Roots") is 60. News correspondent **Cokie Roberts** is 58. Singer **Tracy Nelson** is 57. Actor **Gerard Depardieu** is 53. Guitarist **David Knopfler** of Dire Straits is 49. Singer-songwriter **Karla Bonoff** is 49. Journalist **Arthur Kent** is 48.



**Depardieu**

## CRABBY ROAD

*I was going to get laser eye surgery. Then I found out it doesn't actually give you laser eyes.*



mutana University-Purdue

University Fort Wayne in spring 1972.

"I'd had a student deferment and a high lottery number and hadn't had to do military service," he says. "It was a (President) Kennedy 'ask not kind of call - it was my alternative service."

Peace Corps volunteer Monica Dougherty, daughter of Terry Dougherty and Trisha Gensic,

the world." Boerner says. "In every culture, there's bad and good. ... There's a lot of fear right now and it's very understandable. But I encourage people to get out and meet the (local) international community and talk to them. They want the same things in their lives as we do - for their families, their kids' schools, and not to live in fear."

changed perspectives humankind." Founded in 19 more than 164,000 Today, more than are in 70 countries

# Artist's past revealed as colorful, uncol



Jennie V.A. Clark, painter and sculptor, puts finishing touches on a portrait of Mary Todd Lincoln in this 1946 photo.

By Nancy Vendrely  
The Journal Gazette

A ghostly painting of Abraham Lincoln has called forth a clearer picture of the woman who created the image but never completed it.

Artist Jennie V.A. Clark was as much a mystery as her painting when Fort Wayne native Dawn Olry purchased the work five years ago. But a Journal Gazette story Dec. 15 about Olry's quest for information generated a number of responses from readers.

None knew why the large Lincoln painting, started in 1941, remained unfinished at Clark's death in 1965, but that seeming oddity becomes less strange when put into the context of Clark's extraordinary life.

Killed at age 80 in an auto accident on U.S. 33 north of Fort Wayne, along with her son Carl, 61, Clark had been a Greenwich Village artist in New York in her youth. Sometime before settling in Allen County in 1931, she had embarked on a 13-year odyssey across America, painting and selling her works along the way.

Arlene and Harley Kelly of Fort Wayne have direct links to Clark and her paintings.

"My parents (Oscar and Mary Martin) owned Martin Hardware on 33," Arlene Kelly says. "I

remember artists who big black Carl won

After 1 Martin w four of Je foot-by-9 4-foot pai similarly 1 and an in

Turtle's fa "They" added on 1 Arlene Ke

When 1 parents' es for auction Lincoln, L eventually Cherished the princes Rescue Mi

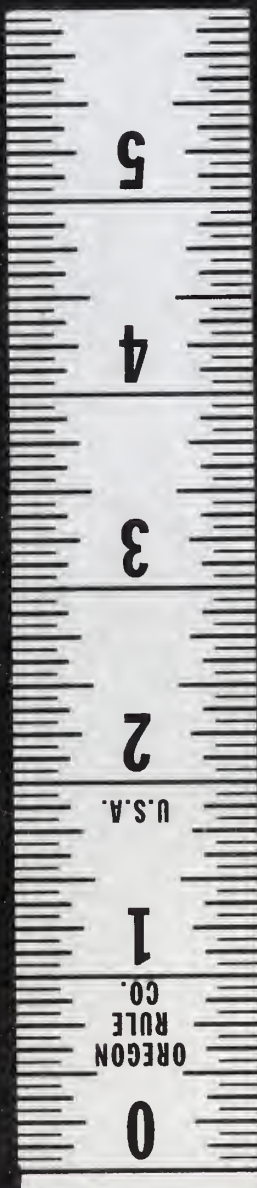
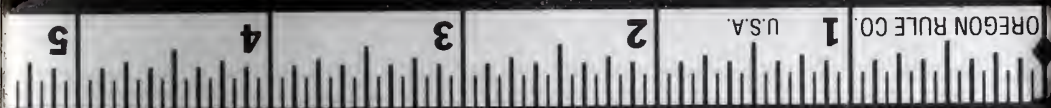
Notes al handwriting interest in 1

Clark, Mrs. George V. M.

Artist - C











Ms. A. 9. 2. 2. 85



# Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

George L. Clough

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



The following newspaper article is copied from the original which was published as far as I know in an Auburn, New York newspaper sometime between 1900 and 1910. At the present time, (Dec. 1959), I am endeavoring to find out the name of the paper and the exact date of the publication in which this article was printed.

-----

#### VALUABLE PAINTING OF LINCOLN

Just at present there is in possession of the Jennings' art store a picture which money could not purchase from James Bruce who owns it. The picture is a panel portrait in oil of the martyred Lincoln and it was painted by Artist George L Clough, late of this city. So far as is known this picture has never been used by any biographer of the war president, in fact very few people know of its existence although it is one of the best of Lincoln as a young man. Outside of its historical interest the picture is of artistic value as it is one of the best of Clough's works.

The artist and President Lincoln were personal friends and the portrait was made from life. It was painted at Cleveland, O., during the early fifties. Lincoln is much younger in appearance here than in most of the popular portraits of him. He is without a beard and while the wrinkles which characterize his rugged countenance are greatly in evidence, the face lacks the careworn expression which marked him later.

-----

This newspaper article was found pasted on the back of the painting. Alongside it was another article marked "Special to The New York Times" which told of a dispute in Omaha, Nebraska on whether or not Lincoln had a beard at the time of his first inauguration.

*Lawrence D. Marks*  
Lawrence D. Marks  
Dec. 6th, 1959



the following information was obtained from the records of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, for the year 1900. The total area of land owned by the United States in 1900 was 1,111,111,111 acres. The total area of land owned by the United States in 1900 was 1,111,111,111 acres.

The following table shows the distribution of land owned by the United States in 1900, by State or Territory. The total area of land owned by the United States in 1900 was 1,111,111,111 acres. The total area of land owned by the United States in 1900 was 1,111,111,111 acres.

The following table shows the distribution of land owned by the United States in 1900, by State or Territory. The total area of land owned by the United States in 1900 was 1,111,111,111 acres. The total area of land owned by the United States in 1900 was 1,111,111,111 acres.

The following table shows the distribution of land owned by the United States in 1900, by State or Territory. The total area of land owned by the United States in 1900 was 1,111,111,111 acres. The total area of land owned by the United States in 1900 was 1,111,111,111 acres.

The following table shows the distribution of land owned by the United States in 1900, by State or Territory. The total area of land owned by the United States in 1900 was 1,111,111,111 acres. The total area of land owned by the United States in 1900 was 1,111,111,111 acres.



148 Willard Ave.

Bloomfield, N. J.

Feb. 13th, 1960

The National Lincoln Life Insurance Foundation

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Att'n The Director,

Dear Mr. E. Gerald McMurty,

It has come to my attention, that your Foundation might be interested in knowing something concerning an oil painting of Abraham Lincoln which has recently come into my possession.

Attached, you will find a matte print of the Lincoln portrait. The size of the original painting is 10" x 12". Also, attached is a sheet of additional information which is self explanatory. Also, please find a 35mm color slide which, when projected on a screen, might interest you more than the black and white enlargement.

Please excuse any amateur photographic faults, as I took the pictures myself rather than have the original painting out of my possession. of course, the necessary printing was commercially done. The slide should be projected so that the left side of the face and shoulders is showing, as this is the case in the original portrait.

Hoping that the above will prove of historical interest to you and the Foundation. If so, I will be pleased to hear from you at your convenience.

Very Truly Yours



Lawrence D. Marks



color slide

Sup. P-704 Dec. 59

#26

WJH

The National Lincoln Life Insurance Foundation

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Attn: The Director

Dear Mr. A. Gerald Smith:

It has come to my attention that your Foundation might

be interested in knowing something concerning an old painting of

Abraham Lincoln which was recently sold to my possession.

Attached, you will find a matte print of the Lincoln

portrait. The size of the original painting is 10" x 12". Also,

attached is a sheet of additional information which is self-ex-

planatory. Also, please find a 35mm color slide which, when pro-

jected on a screen, might interest you more than the black and

white enlargement.

Please excuse my amateur photographic results, as I

took the pictures myself rather than have the original painting

out of my possession. Of course, the necessary printing was

commercially done. The slide should be protected so that the

left side of the face and shoulders is shown, as this is the

case in the original portrait.

Hoping that the above will prove of historical interest

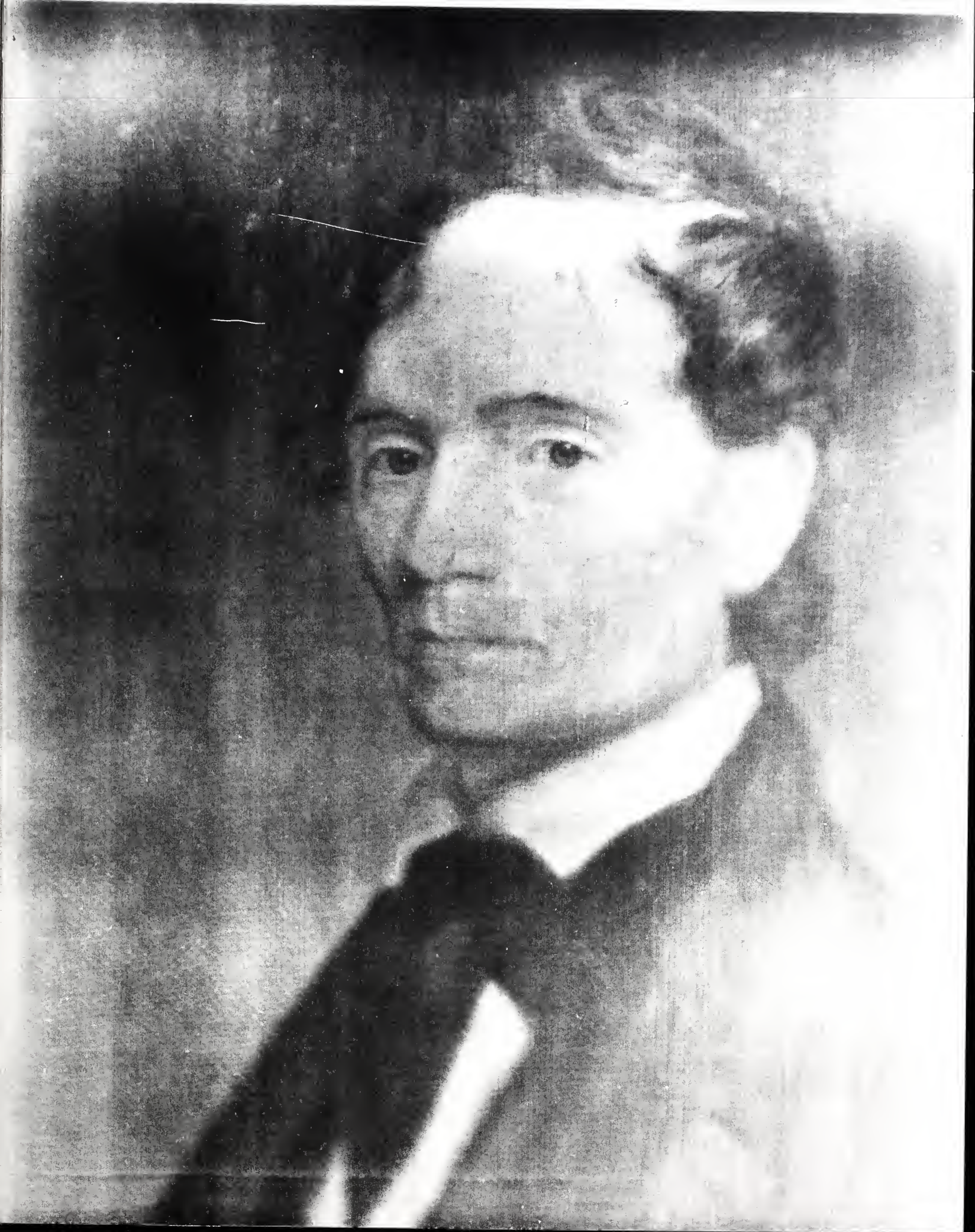
to you and the Foundation. If so, I will be pleased to hear from

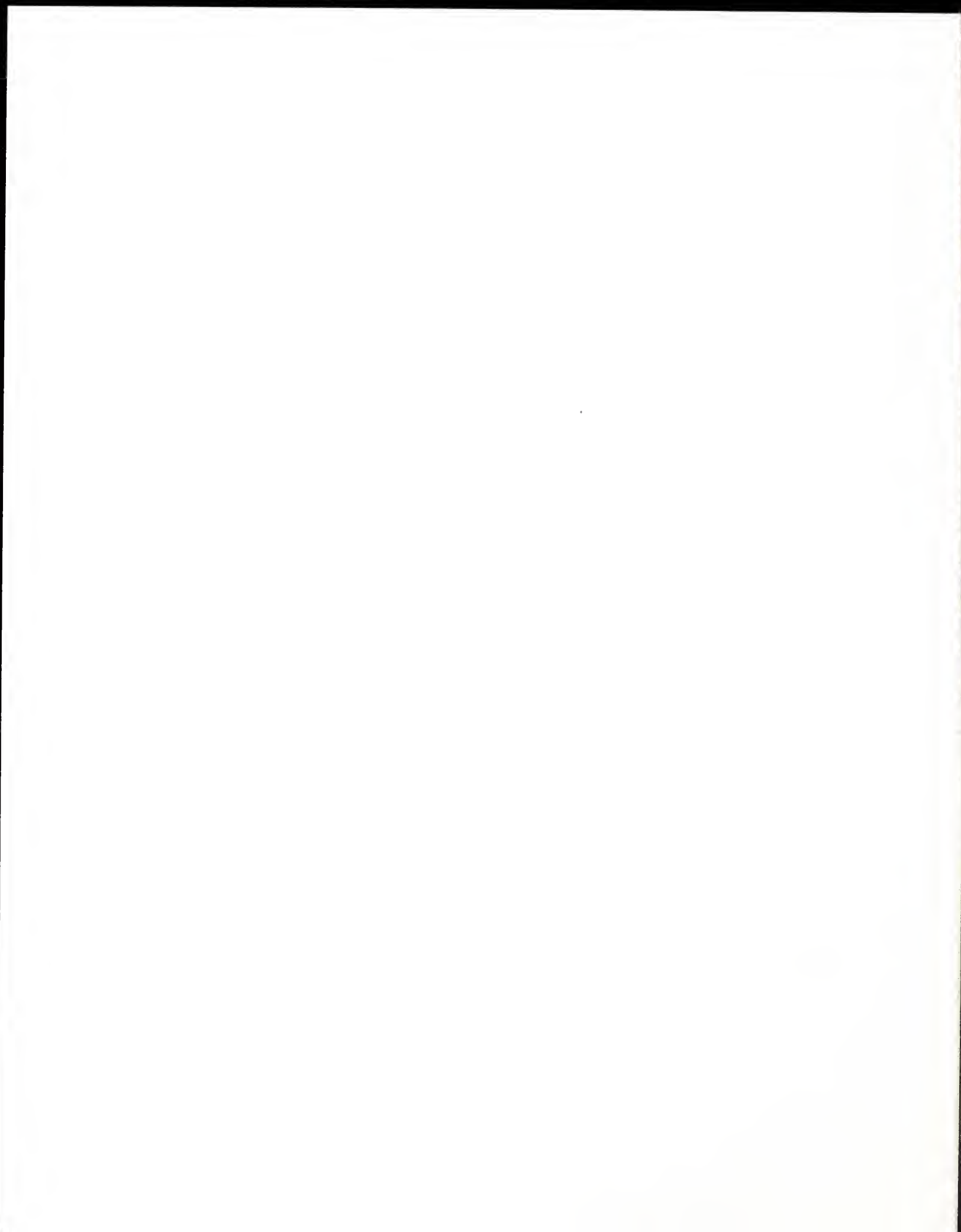
you at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence D. Harris









February 23, 1960

Mr. Lawrence D. Marks  
148 Willard Avenue  
Bloomfield, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Marks:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of February 13 addressed to Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry and photograph of the Lincoln painting which you own.

Dr. McMurtry is out of the office at present concluding his annual speaking itinerary and will not return here until the end of February. At this time I will bring your correspondence and enclosures to his attention.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss)MEMoellering:jy

1000 1/2

1000 1/2

1000 1/2

1000 1/2



March 2, 1960

Mr. Lawrence D. Marks  
148 Willard Avenue  
Bloomfield, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Marks:

I have read your letter of February 15th and have examined the photograph of your Lincoln painting. Likewise, I have read the inscription which appears on the back of the portrait. I have not been able to use the photographic slide as I do not have a projector readily available.

I have never seen this portrait before and we have no information concerning George L. Clough in our files.

Do you want me to return the photograph and the photographic slide? We would of course like to have this material for our files. If I could keep the material, we might be able to do further work on the origin of the portrait.

I am sorry that I cannot give you any further information about your portrait at this time.

It is a well known fact that Lincoln wore a beard on March 4, 1861 the day of his inauguration.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM:hw

100-100000

100-100000  
100-100000  
100-100000

I have been thinking of you a great deal lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately but I will try to write to you more often. I am still in the same place and doing the same work. I hope you are also well. I will write to you again soon.

Yours truly,  
John Doe

100-100000



